

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter aims to provide relevant theories of related literature. It covers the definition of translation, the definition of the phraseme, the conditions for the phraseme, the difficulties of the phraseme, the characteristics of the phraseme, the typologies of the phraseme, the definition of the novel, and *The Little Prince* novel.

2.1 Translation

Translation is needed to transfer the information from one source language to another specific target language properly (Sakai, 2006). Whereas the language a translator takes to is called source language (SL), the language a translator refers to is mentioned as target language (TL). As Sakai points out, therefore, a translator needs to have a knowledge of both languages. Differently, Wang and Sunihan (2014) both say that translation is the SL and TL's intercultural communication. It means that a translator should not focus only on the linguistic level but also on the cultural connotation. Translation is simply a process of transferring the information (the cultural connotation, artistic connotation, aesthetic connotation, etc.) between two languages (Wang & Sunihan, 2014). By and large, translation is an interaction between SL and TL in transferring the information included in both languages.

Similarly, from a compiled book entitled *Introduction to Translation Studies (Translation)*, the researcher takes a note that there are three typical categories that machine translators cannot handle: realia, collocations, and idioms (phrasemes) (Lestiono, 2016). These three categories are somehow related to

untranslatability and equivalency. Still and all, everything is translatable with a certain strategy.

2.2 Phraseme

Derived from the aforementioned statements, the researcher points out a term phraseme as one of the problems of the translation that cannot be avoided. Mel'čuk (2012), in his paper, *Phraseology in the Language, in the Dictionary, and in the Computer*, mentions that a phraseme has several other names: a phraseological expression, a set expression, set phrase, idiomatic phrase, and multi-word expression. In everyday conversation, a phraseme is simply known as an idiom. Using phrasemes are quite common for both native and non-native speakers. However, a phraseme is sometimes not easy to recognize, let alone to interpret. The followings information are included to help to understand a phraseme in brief.

2.2.1 Definition of Phraseme

A phraseme, derived from Mel'čuk's (2012) notion, is a phraseological expression that is featuring some unpredictable properties. He defines a phraseme more specific as a lexical phraseme or phraseologized phrase (Mel'čuk, 2015). In short, it can be said that a phraseme is a phrase that is not free—a non-free phrase.

On the other hand, Liu and Hwa (2016) propose that phraseme is a concatenate group of words, in which a specific meaning is occurred and is different from the individual meanings of each word. As Kovács (2016) claims that “idiom” is an expression of which units are different in meaning from what the words would mean separately. To illustrate, “It's raining cats and dogs!” means it is raining

heavily and there is nothing to do with cats and dogs. The ‘real’ meaning of the lexical phraseme is hidden and is not stated clearly.

Along the same line, Feare (2011) posits that a phraseme, by and large, is an expression of which a special meaning exists and cannot be understood thoroughly just by looking at the individual words in the phraseme. It may be said that a phraseme has its own special meaning and might be peculiar to some people. Despite its difficulty, learning lexical phraseme is important in order to advance in English, especially in translating English words. To be concluded, to make it clear, a phraseme is simply defined as an idiom—it is an idiomatic phrase that has different hidden meaning in spite of the individual meaning of the phrase.

Moreover, phrasemes are different from collocations. Collocations are words that are generally used together and sound correct at the same time (Lestiono, 2016). As stated by Lestiono (2018), “collocations are not always idioms, while idioms are always collocations.”

2.2.2 Conditions for Phraseme

It is mentioned in Adelnia and Dastjerdi’s (2011) paper that phrasemes are language’s frozen patterns that only allow little or no variation in form and often carry figurative meaning which cannot be concluded from their individual units as what Baker’s said. By following this definition, five conditions for phrasemes are considered as follow (Adelnia & Dastjerdi, 2011).

1. The order of the words in a phraseme cannot be changed. The way the words are put together as in the phraseme *the long and the short of it* is fixed and cannot be changed into *the short and the long of it*.

2. It is not allowed to delete one or some of the words of a particular element in a phraseme. For instance, the phrase *shed tears* is not a phraseme—*shed crocodile tears* is.
3. An extra word cannot be added to a phraseme. Take the phraseme *a piece of cake* as an example. One cannot just add a random word and make it non-phraseme as in the phrase *a piece of chocolate cake*.
4. No words in a phraseme can be replaced by another word. A phraseme violates the freedom of selection of its lexical components (Mel'čuk, 2012). One cannot replace any of the components in *kick the bucket* becomes *punch the bucket* or *kick the basket*. The essential meaning—which is 'die'—and the grammaticality will be affected by the replacement.
5. The grammatical construction of a phraseme cannot also be changed. The phraseme *ring the bell* does exist but not with *the bell was rung*.

2.2.3 Difficulties of Phraseme

For non-native speakers of a language, understanding phrasemes means having less trouble in doing communication with native speakers. However, it is not as easy as it seems to understand a phraseme. One must derive an accurate figurative meaning of a phraseme to interpret it correctly. As the researcher oft mention previously in the definition of the phraseme, the words on a phraseme are individually mean something else.

As cited in Halling's (2017) paper, Cooper (1998) mentions that there are three main factors that make phrasemes difficult yet comprehensible. Further explanation of these factors will be elaborated in the next paragraph.

The first factor is familiarity. “The more familiar the phraseme is, the higher the chance that it will be interpreted correctly” (Halling, 2017). Another factor is the degree of transparency. According to Halling (2017), it is way easier to comprehend transparent idioms whose literal and figurative meaning correlate. The last factors are compositionality and the context. Taken from the same source, decomposable phrasemes are easier to understand than phrasemes of non-decomposable.

Besides, based on the findings in the recent research, there are several difficulties that students face in understanding idioms. Some of the factors that make phrasemes difficult are listed below (Alhaysony, 2017).

1. The lack of cultural background behind the idioms.
2. The lack of experience dealing with idioms.
3. Unfamiliar words.

2.2.4 Characteristics of Phraseme

The phrasemes are sometimes difficult to acknowledge, but there are some tips to recognize them nonetheless. The following list is the characteristics of the phraseme that will help to recognize a phraseme according to Lestiono (2017).

1. Phrasemes are sometimes violating truth as in the phraseme *throw caution to the wind* and the phraseme *raining cats and dogs*.
2. Phrasemes are sometimes ill-formed. It means that the phraseme is not following grammatical rules. That is why the term “extra-grammatical idiom” exists. As an example, the phraseme *all of a sudden* is clearly not following the

general syntactic rules where an article should be followed by a noun, not an adjective (*sudden*).

3. Phrasemes sometimes have a simile-like construction. It is seen on the phraseme *like a bat out of hell* which means *sudden*. Another example is the phraseme that has meaning eat a lot of food, *eat like a horse*.
4. Phrasemes are more difficult to understand. If there is an expression that is difficult to comprehend, it is maybe considered as a phraseme. For instance, the expression *break a leg* seems uncommon and challenging to interpret. It really is a phraseme and figuratively means *good luck*.

2.2.5 Typologies of Phraseme

Phrasemes can be characterized in many different ways (Croft & Cruse, 2004). Departing from a book about idioms (Zarei & Rahimi, 2012), syntactically or semantically, there are two ways to classify phrasemes: encoding and decoding (Makkai, 1972). The encoding and decoding distinction is rather not clearly expressed: it refers to how 'clever' (or lucky) the hearer is in decoding a phraseme expression. Furthermore, the distinction will be briefly explained below.

2.2.5.1 Encoding Phrasemes

According to Fillmore's (2004) original classification, an encoding phraseme is an expression that can be interpreted following the standard rules for a sentence or phrase interpretation but is conventional for the particular expression with the particular meaning (Croft & Cruse, 2004) e.g. *bright red*. Even if the meaning of encoding phrasemes could be figured out by anyone who knows English, they are still idiomatic in that a (non-native) speaker could not have

guessed that this is the *conventional, natural-sounding* way of expressing these concepts (Lestiono, 2017). In her paper, Masegosa (2010) defined encoding phrasemes as those that can be understood by speakers of a language without having learned them beforehand, but that is not recognized as fully conventional, e.g. *answer the door* (Masegosa, 2010).

2.2.5.2 Decoding Phrasemes

Following Croft and Cruse (2004), a decoding phraseme is an expression which the language users could not interpret the whole meaning at all from the meaning of its parts. Lestiono (2017) adds that decoding phrasemes are phrasemes of which meaning cannot be figured out just by knowing the words and grammar of the language. In line with the precedent statement, Masegosa (2010) mentions that in order to understand the meaning, a decoding phraseme needs to be learned beforehand, e.g. *kick the bucket*. Briefly, in line with what Zarei and Rahimi (2012) said, phrasemes of decoding are non-identifiable.

2.3 Novel

A novel not only contains a story about life (Syarifuddin et al., 2013) but also gives emotion to the reader. In his article, Hasan (2015) states that novel evolved as a piece of prose fiction in which characters are brought in real-life scenes. According to Bo (2008), a novel describes things and displays the real life through words. It is a narration of which characters and actions represent a real-life portrait. In brief, a novel is defined as a fictional narration with a connected sequence in a specific setting.

2.4 The Little Prince Novel

The Little Prince is a classic tale that can be read by both children and adults for the life and friendship philosophical observations (Banerjee, 2011). The story of this phrasemes-contained novel is about an airman who discovers the world yet stranded in a dessert. There, he meets a little boy, the Little Prince of the title that “describes the universe from a child’s perspective, highlighting adults’ lack of imagination absorption with greed, work, and power. (Banerjee, 2011)” Chambert-Loir (2016), in his Indonesian version of *The Little Prince* novel, *Pangeran Cilik*, mentioned that *The Little Prince* novel has been translated into two hundred and thirty languages and published over many nations.

